

TITLE OF INVENTION

Inventor:

Petriello, James T.; United States Citizen
(299 Christian Herald Rd., Valley Cottage, NY 10989)

Name of invention: Wedge Lite

The purpose of said invention is to provide emergency personnel, primarily firefighters, a fast, reliable way of finding an exit door during interior firefighting operations by combining a "door chock" or "wedge" and a high powered strobe unit all in one. When used to hold open the exit door, the unit automatically activates and flashes providing a visual route of egress.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

828834	Aug/1906	Bell	340/546
3805322	April/1974	Serrano	16/82
4890092	Dec/1989	Grimm	340/546
5008648	April/1991	Conemac	340/546
5465460	Nov/1995	Cantone	340/546

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

"Not applicable"

SEQUENCE LISTING

"Not applicable"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention: the invention relates generally to firefighting operations and more specifically to "search and rescue" operations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The first intention of the invention is to provide emergency personnel, primarily, but not limited to, firefighters, a fast means of finding an exit during firefighting operations.

The second intention of the invention is to hold open the primary means of egress, i.e. door, whether it is an exterior door or interior door of a building.

The third intention of the invention is to provide a means of visually identifying the route of egress, quickly and decisively by using a high powered strobe that repeatedly flashes.

The fourth intention of the invention is to automatically be activated when "wedged" under an open door, thereby allowing the emergency personnel the freedom to focus on other tasks.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure A is the side (internal) of the invention.

Item 1 is the strobe unit.

Item 2 is the body of the unit.

Item 3 is the hinged cover of the unit.

Item 4 is the battery (power supply).

Item 5 is a compressible spring.

Item 6 is a metal plate connected to the underside of the hinged cover.

Item 7 is the hinge for the cover.

Figure B is the top view of the invention.

Item 1 is the strobe unit.

Item 3 is the hinged cover of the unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Emergency personnel, particularly firefighters, face an extremely dangerous and difficult task during the search and rescue phase of a firefighting operation. While on their hands and knees a firefighter must often search a smoke-filled room with extremely limited visibility. During this operation a firefighter can become disoriented and lose his or her bearings in relation to the exit or door that he or she just entered. This invention provides a quick and easy way of regaining those bearings, and provides a visual beacon should a quick exit become necessary. Referring to the drawings, Item 2 is the body of the invention that contains the internal spring switch, battery and wiring.

A high powered strobe (1) flashes upwards and outwards when activated. Activation is simple and achieved by inserting the invention under the bottom of an open door, this action causes the hinged cover(3) and metal plate(6) to be compressed downward until the metal plate(6) contacts the compressible spring(5), which in turn completes an electrical circuit and activating the strobe(1). Power is supplied by an onboard battery (4). Simply removing the invention from the underside of the door allows the hinged cover (3) and metal plate (6) to return to their original position, thus deactivating the invention.